

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (New) An information processing apparatus comprising:

a user computer configured to obtain a list of modules from a module-storing region, a module identified in said list of modules being software,

wherein said user computer obtains a new module from said module-storing region when said new module is absent from said user computer, said new module being identified in said list of modules.

14. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said user computer obtains an updated module from said module-storing region when said updated module is a more recent version of a module stored in the user computer, said updated module being identified in said list of modules.

15. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said user computer deletes the name of a skipped module from said list of modules, said name of the skipped module being listed within said user computer.

16. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein one of a plurality of user computers is a master machine, others of said plurality of user computers linking with said master machine.

17. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 16, wherein said user computer is from said plurality of user computers, an IP address of said master machine being stored within said user computer.

18. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said list of modules is updated when another of the modules is stored within said module-storing region, said list of modules being updated within said module-storing region.

19. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 13, wherein said module-storing region is one of a plurality of module-storing regions, location information identifying said module-storing region from said plurality of module-storing regions.

20. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 19, wherein said location information includes a Uniform Resource Locator for each module-storing region in said plurality of module-storing regions.

21. (New) A software updating system comprising:
the information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 19; and
a center computer, the user computer obtaining a list of module-storing regions from said center computer,
wherein the location information is recorded within said list of module-storing regions.

22. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 21, wherein said user computer communicates with said module-storing region and said center computer over a network, said center computer communicating with said module-storing region over said network.

23. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 22, wherein said network is from the group consisting of a local area network, a wide area network and the internet.

24. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 22, wherein said user computer sends user identification information onto said network, said user identification information identifying said user computer.

25. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 24, wherein said center computer compiles said list of the module-storing regions when said user computer is judged as having a license, said center computer using said user identification information in judging whether said user computer has said license.

26. (New) The information processing apparatus as set forth in claim 25, wherein said location information corresponds to said each of the module-storing regions, said each of the module-storing regions being linked to said user identification information.

27. (New) A method of updating a software installed in an information processing apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a list of module-storing regions from a center computer, said list of the module-storing regions including location information;

obtaining a list of modules from one of the module-storing regions, said location information differentiating said one of the module-storing regions from a plurality of the module-storing regions;

obtaining a new module from said one of the module-storing regions when said new module is absent from said user computer, said new module being identified in said list of modules,

wherein said new module is the software.

28. (New) The method as set forth in claim 27, wherein prior to the step of obtaining the list of module-storing regions, the method further comprising:

sending user identification to said center computer, said user identification information identifying said user computer,

wherein said center computer compiles said list of the module-storing regions when said user computer is judged as having a license, said center computer using said user identification information in judging whether said user computer has said license.

29. (New) The method as set forth in claim 27, wherein prior to the step of obtaining the list of module-storing regions, the method further comprising:

deleting the name of a skipped module from said list of modules, said name of the skipped module being listed within said user computer.

30. (New) The method as set forth in claim 29, wherein the step of deleting the name of the module is performed before the step of obtaining the new module.

31. (New) The method as set forth in claim 27, further comprising:

obtaining an updated module from said one of the module-storing regions when said updated module is a more recent version of a module stored in the user computer, said updated module being identified in said list of modules,

wherein said updated module is the software.

32. (New) A computer program product embodied in a tangible non-transitory computer readable medium, the computer program product being configured to perform the method of claim 27.